



SUPERMAN
STARRING IN

ACTION COMICS

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COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



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broderick
& o'neill

ROCKETED AS A BABY FROM THE EXPLODING PLANET KRYPTON, KAL-EL GREW TO MANHOOD ON EARTH--WHOSE YELLOW SUN AND LIGHTER GRAVITY GAVE HIM FANTASTIC SUPER-POWERS! IN THE CITY OF METROPOLIS, HE POSES AS MILD-MANNERED NEWSMAN CLARK KENT--BUT BATTLES EVIL ALL OVER EARTH--AND BEYOND--AS...

SUPERMAN
Created by
JOHN BULL &
JOE SHUSTER

AND SO IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO DEDICATE THIS STATUE CARVED OF SOLID ANTHRACITE COAL TO THE MAN WHO SAVED OUR TOWN...

...THE MAN WHO SINGLE-HANDLEDLY EXTINGUISHED THE COAL-MINE FIRE THAT HAD BEEN BURNING BENEATH OUR FEET, THREATENING OUR HEALTH AND OUR LIVES...

...THE MAN WHO KEPT COALTOWN ON THE MAP...

--SUPERMAN!

WHEN I LISTENING TO THE MAYOR'S SPEECH TOOK MORE TIME THAN PUTTING OUT THE FIRE!

LOIS CERTAINLY DOESN'T LOOK TOO THRILLED WITH THE ASSIGNMENT OF COVERING THIS EVENT!

A MINOR EVENT IN THE LIFE OF THE MAN OF STEEL: BEING HONORED BY A TOWN WHOSE EXISTENCE HE SAVED WITH A RELATIVELY MINOR SUPER-DEED. BUT SUPERMAN WOULD DO WELL TO RELAX WHILE HE CAN, BEFORE HE FACES...

"PERI(L) IN PARADISE!"

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SHORTLY AS THE CEREMONY ENDS...

SUPERMAN, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET DAVID ISHMAN, A REPORTER FOR THE COALTOWN PRESS.

IT WAS HIS ORIGINAL STORY THAT THE DAILY PLANET PICKED UP THAT GOT YOU HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, DAVID.

BELIEVE ME, SUPERMAN -- THE PLEASURE IS ALL MINE!

IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE OTHER DUTIES TO ATTEND TO. LOIS -- NEED A LIFT BACK TO METROPOLIS?

THANKS, BUT I'VE GOT ANOTHER ASSIGNMENT NEARBY. SOME OTHER TIME, OKAY?

RIGHT. SEE YOU.

LOIS DOESN'T KNOW IT, BUT I KNOW ABOUT HER ASSIGNMENT... BECAUSE I HAVE TO JOIN HER THERE -- AS CLARK KENT!

AND AS THE MAN OF ACTION STREAKS AWAY...

SO LONG, DAVID! IF YOU EVER DECIDE TO TRY YOUR HAND AT BIG CITY REPORTING, COME SEE US AT THE PLANET!

HANA, TOUCHÉ!

I HOPE THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN COVERING STATUE DEDICATIONS IN COALTOWN, LOIS -- WHICH IS, AFTER ALL, WHAT YOU'RE DOING.

SHORTLY...

--THE STATUE STORY'S DICATED TO REWRITE, PERRY, AND I'M ON MY WAY TO PARADISE PINES.

OKAY, LOIS, I WANT YOU TO MEET CLARK AT THE MOUNT TORY MOTEL. THE TWO OF YOU WILL ACT AS A MARRIED COUPLE TO SET A SCOOP ON A REAL ESTATE SCAM AT PARADISE PINES.

THAT'S ODD. PERRY JUST TOLD ME EXACTLY THE SAME THING HE TOLD ME AN HOUR AGO. DOES HE THINK I FORGOTT?

COME BACK AGAIN SOON, SUPERMAN!



A SHORT DRIVE LATER...

Paradise Pines

LOVELIEST LAND IN PENNSYLVANIA--
OR ANYWHERE

HERE WE ARE, THE DEVELOPER CERTAINLY ISN'T MODEST ABOUT HIS PROPERTY, IS HE?

I THINK A MODEST SALESMAN IS A CONTRADICTION IN TERMS, LORE.



--OR ANYWHERE! NOW THIS IS NOT JUST AN IDLE CLAIM, YOU KNOW! PARADISE PINES HAS ADVANTAGES YOU WON'T FIND ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD!

IN FACT, YOU'VE ARRIVED HERE JUST IN TIME FOR OUR LITTLE DEMONSTRATION.

AS MAGICALLY CONJURED UP BY MRS. GRANT, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE YELLOW PERKY!

DO YOUR STUFF, LORETTA!

I SUMMON THE WINTER'S STORM TO BLOW AND FREEZE AROUND US!

HOW ABOUT IT, FOLKS--NICE LITTLE SPECIAL EFFECT, EH? YOU'LL NOTICE THAT WHILE IT'S SHOWING LIKE THE DICKENS OUT THERE, WE'RE STILL WARM AND DRY IN HERE!



THAT'S JUST THE WAY
YOUR LAND WILL BE IF
YOU BUY AND BUILD
HERE AT PARADISE
PINES. NO WINTER
STORM WILL BLOCK
YOUR PATH OR
HAIR YOUR
WEEKEND
VACATIONS.

AND WHAT YOU MAY ASK, IS THE CATCH! WELL, FRIENDS,
THERE IS NO CATCH! PARADISE PINES PROPERTIES ARE FULLY
PROTECTED WHEN YOU SIGN ON THE DOTTED LINE... AT NO EXTRA COST!



HMMM, ALVIN'S SO
BUSY DOING HIS
SALES PITCH, HE
DOESN'T REALIZE
THAT THE SNOW IS
MELTING IN THE
WARM SPRING AIR!

OHAY, LORETTA.
SHOW'S OVER.
SHUT IT DOWN!



OF COURSE,
GARLUNG.



WHAT THE--IT'S
A FLOOD!

CREATED BY ALL
THE MELTING SNOW!
THE YELLOW PERI'S
SPELL IS BACKFIRING!



RUN!!

RIGHT! YOU ALL
RUN THAT WAY
AND I'LL RUN
THIS WAY!



YOU IDIOT! LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
YOU'VE RUINED EVERYTHING! CHECK OUT
YOUR BOOK AND CANCEL OUT THAT SPELL!

I-I'M LOOKING,
ALVIN! LOOKING
REAL HARD!

IF THERE'S ONE THING FOR SURE ABOUT ALVIN AND HIS SCHEMES, IT'S THAT I USUALLY END UP CLEANING UP AFTER HIM!

A QUICK UP AND DOWN FLIGHT TO GIVE THE APPEARANCE I'VE SWOOPED IN FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE --

-- THEN THE OLD SUPER-BREATH TO TURN THE WATER INTO A BLOCK OF ICE --

... WITH A LITTLE JUST DESERTS!

HELP! GET ME OUT OF THIS!

KEEP COOL, ALVIN -- ALL THAT HOT AIR WILL MELT THE ICE ALL OVER AGAIN!

YOU SUPER-SMUNK, YOU DID THIS TO ME ON PURPOSE!

NOW, ALVIN, WOULD I DO A THING LIKE THAT?

LOOK AT IT THIS WAY: SOME THIRSTY FARMLAND IS GOING TO GET RAINED ON ... AND YOU GOT SOME LAND CLEARED FREE OF CHARGE!

BUT BE MORE CAREFUL NEXT TIME YOU TRY THIS STUNT, OKAY?



SHORTLY...

STILL UNDECIDED?
TAKE A LOOK
AT THIS
ADVANTAGE
PARADISE PINES
HAS OVER
EVERY OTHER
DEVELOPMENT!

SUPPOSE YOU'VE ALWAYS
WANTED A BACKYARD GARDEN,
BUT HAVEN'T THE TIME
OR BACKYARD FOR IT.



NO PROBLEM! YOU
JUST SPREAD YOUR
SEEDS HERE AT
PARADISE PINES...

MIT IT,
LORETTA!



SEED BURST FORTH
IN FULL BLOOM!



SURELY...



HOW'S THAT FOR SERVICE? YOU CAN PLANT
YOUR VEGETABLES AND FRUITS IN THE
MORNING AND EAT THEM FOR LUNCH!

AND SPEAKING OF LUNCH,
GOLDS, PICK 'EM AND JOIN
US FOR AN OLD-FASHIONED
PICNIC UNDER THE TREES!



AND WHEN THE HARVEST
HAS BEEN REAPED...

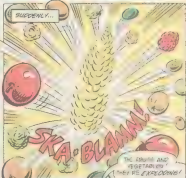
I DON'T KNOW WHAT
THE GOODNESS IS,
CLARK, AGREE
ISN'T ILLEGAL?

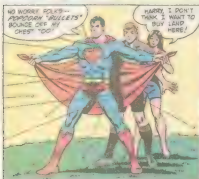
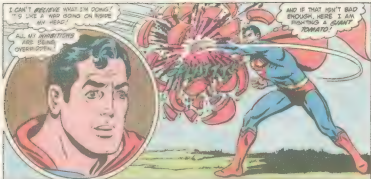
I'VE RUN INTO GRANT BEFORE,
LOIS. IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF
TIME BEFORE HIS TRUE
COLORS START TO SHOW!

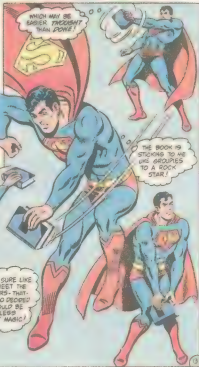
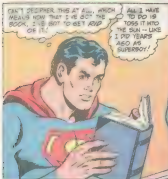
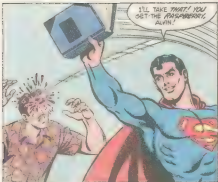
THIS MAY APPEAR TO
BE A FREE LUNCH, BUT
YOU KNOW THE SAYING--
THERE'S NO SUCH
THING!



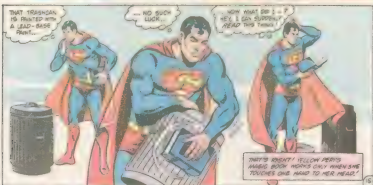
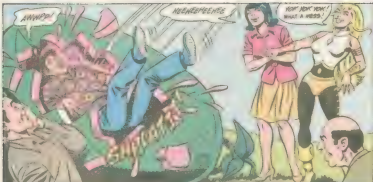


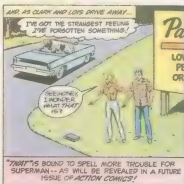
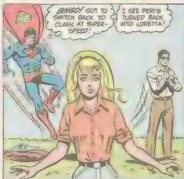
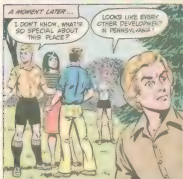
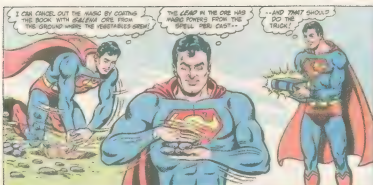














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Dear Julie and Bob,

ACTION #563 was thoroughly entertaining! The cover promised "Three Fun-Filled Stories!" and you delivered. Even the cover was fun! Hilarious, even.

"Black Beauty" was even funnier than "Ambush Bag" in **ACTION** #560. Sapie makes a perfect straight man for Ambush Bag's wacky shenanigans. Ambush Bag used to remind me of Bill Griffin's Zippy the Pinhead, but Keith Giffen has shaped the character into something unique. Mr. Giffen (along with balloonist Robert Leren Fleming) has a wonderful flair for comedy, and his droll artwork complements his writing very nicely. There was something to laugh at in every panel. I await the Ambush Bag mini-series with bated breath.

"Mr. Mxyzptlk, Media Star" was also refreshing and very easy to like. The best trick came when the two giants walked out of the movie screen. A great idea! I couldn't see why everybody in the story was so hot to get rid of Mxyzptlk, as his pranks were basically harmless fun. If Edge would have given him his own TV show, it would have gotten the little pest off his back, and may even have become a ratings hit. The trick ending was neat, and the team of Alex Savinuk and Dennis Jensen provided us with eight new pages of outstanding artwork. Let's see more brilliant art from this dynamic duo, please!

"Jimmy Olsen—Blob!" was the third winner in a row. The event-packed script harkened back to the stories of the 50's and 60's, and the opening panels even cleverly encapsulated some of those oldies-but-goodies (any chance for a return of the Giant Turtle Olsen, drawn by Curt Swan?) best dialogue: "Lock us up! Throw away the cruiser! We're punks!" Jimmy's encounter with his date was also a scream. But why didn't Superman tell poor Jimmy how he planned to restore him to his former self, instead of letting him sweat it out until the last second? Some "pal." Maybe Sapie was miffed because he was relegated to a supporting role in all three stories in this ish. After all, he is the "star" of the book. Howard Bender turned in a virtuoso performance on the artwork. I especially liked the way the Olsen-Blob coed through the grating on page 4, and his suddenly terrifying transformation on page 5.

The three-story-per-issue format is a

fine concept. The reader really feels like he is getting his 15¢ worth. I have every issue of **ACTION** since #551, and every **SUPERMAN** since #390, because they can always be counted on for entertaining stories and excellent artwork. Keep up the good work!

DAVID PULLEYBLANK
Box 103
Denver, IA 50622

Response to the three-story format proved overwhelmingly favorable. David, so Julie is planning another for the future.—BR

Dear Editor:

FUN COMICS, or **ACTION COMICS** #563 was excellent! The idea of Ambush Bag turning black was hilarious! I hope you keep his suit black, but please, no webs under the arms, okay?

The pesky Penthouse Popping Pixy was as mischievous as ever. This was a great, fast-paced story. Seeing the Mxyzptlk Bizarro double brings the thought of ... good grief, not a Bizarro Ambush Bag!

I was very happy to see Jimmy Olsen doing his unique transformations. Those physical changes always made for good comics in the early years. One request—bring back Elastic Lad! I think readers too young to remember him would really get a kick from him.

RICK (LA) STEEL
Cleveland, OH

We'd venture to guess that readers old enough to remember him would get a kick out of him too!—BR

Dear Editor,

History was in the making when **ACTION** #563 hit the stands. Ambush Bag was on the cover. Jimmy Olsen nearly resumed his Elastic Lad career. And yours truly made the letter page. (Really, I would have bought the issue anyway!)

But somewhere along the way, history got sidetracked. Mind you, I like the concept of an occasional "all back-up" issue, but this one just didn't come together.

Ambush Bag's stories, hilarious as they are, are beginning to confuse me. Keith Giffen obviously has a brilliantly warped imagination, but I'm left wondering at the end whether I'm supposed to believe what the Bag has

been telling us. Confusing Superman is perfectly fair; that's the Bag's job. But confusing innocent readers ought to arouse the Answer Man's wrath.

Next problem: by all logic, Superman's otherwise plausible Mxyzptlk-banishing technique should have short-circuited from the imp's spell. If the magic could tell a difference between Kllpzyxm (the Bizarro-name, which Supes can say) and Kllpzyxm (Mxyzptlk's name reversed, which he can't), then that same difference ought to protect the imp when he speaks the Bizarro name, Right?

The "Boy Blob" tale, while a perfectly good yarn, seemed a bit too innocuous to hold its own with the other two. I wish I'd had the chance to see it matched with a more traditional headliner. And where did the Blob on the cover get that tie when Jimmy wasn't wearing one in the story?

Again, don't let me dissuade you from experimenting with strange, unusual, and wildly funny stories like these in future issues, though perhaps the experiments might be best not all hatched at the same time. I'm still eagerly anticipating the return of the Ambush Bag (please give him back his green costume) and the next appearance of the Yellow Peri. Hmm—maybe if the Answer Man can write fast enough, next time out I'll be sharing an issue with Gazook and the Grants. What a thought! (What an ego!)

JOHN C. BUNNELL
505 Winter Street NE #206
Salem, OR 97331

Well, John, you made it into an issue with the Grants, but Gazook is still among the missing. However, considering the end of this issue's Yellow Peri tale, I think we can safely say the magical imp will not be long in coming. (Right, Julie?) And where did the Boy Blob on the cover get a bowtie? At a tie store, of course! He wanted to look extra special because he knew he was appearing with those two snappy dressers—Ambush Bag and Mr. Mxyzptlk!—BR

Dear Julie and Bob,

I was somewhat dubious about the wisdom of having three stories in **ACTION** #563. I doubted that it would work out to anyone's advantage. I was wrong. So wrong.

1 COMICS IN THE PAST 100 YEARS

The Ambush Bug story was, like its predecessor, a riot. Keith Giffen is brilliant when it comes to generating humor in a comic strip. Slight gags, puns, in-jokes—all had me giggling like crazy. (I got a few funny looks from my wife, Elaine.) I especially enjoyed the "Secret Wars" line on page 3. This story not only poked fun at comics in general, but also at itself—see page 7, panel 4, for instance. Is this what is meant by a "funny book"? The only flaw came on the final page. I feel the last two panels were superfluous, serving to overstate the joke about the origin. Panel eight should have been the last. I do hope more such Ambush Bug "shorts" are in the works, as well as a full series.

"Jimmy Olsen—Blob" was a fine debut for Craig Boldman, harkening back to the days when Superman's pal starred in his own book. The story was well written throughout, with some really nice touches to make it an above-average adventure. Standing out as the best of the lot was the section where he stood at Minnie's door with the flowers. Howard Bender and Pablo Marcos did an impressive art job, making the tiny panels seem somehow expansive.

"Mr. Mxyzptlk, Media Star" enjoyed the best artwork in the issue but was the weakest story. The other-dimensional imp wore out his welcome with me a long time ago and the infrequency of his appearances has done nothing to bolster his appeal. I'll go so far as to say that ENB came up with some interesting stunts for the magical plot to perform, in particular the centerfold "pop-up" and animating the images on the movie screen—but the story itself has been done many times before and well enough should have been left alone.

All in all, #563 was a success. I hope you will try the format again, in the not-too-distant future.

DALE COE
41 Whitetree Rd.
Warrington,
Cheshire WA5 1LR England

Dear Mr. Rozakis,

Now, about ACTION #563...
The cover—lunacy! But I loved it! Sure, Giffen draws Superman with features like Popeye, but it's funny.

The first story—more lunacy! All those little jokes, inside and otherwise, were great. Ronald Morris, the nonexistent newscaster from THRILLER; Bethany Snow, the nasty lady from TEEN TITANS; the high cross, again from THRILLER. I'm sure that drunk and the bald guy in the trench coat were somebody, but darned if I know who.

The second story—cute. I just don't get into Mixy's stories. Savink's art was nice, though.

The third story—amusing. You'd think Lois would have recognized the eyes and freckles. But albino

alligator? And why did Jimmy refer to himself as "boy"? Did somebody slip and give him the same retro-active youth serum they gave Super-girl? What the heck happened to Mr. Action?

Well, it was a good issue. Weird, but good.

JOHN HENRY SAIN
2351 Kings Highway
Medford, OR 97501

Jimmy referred to himself as a boy because he thinks of himself as youthful and rash, despite his actual age!—BR

Dear Julie,

I just read the Ambush Bug story in ACTION #563. I enjoyed it greatly, especially the "secret wars" line.

But there is one question nagging me. The money that Giffen, Fleming, and Oksner are getting off this story is going for a good therapist for them, isn't it?

KIM METZGER
Buyer's Guide
700 E. State Street
Iola, WI 54990

The very best!—BR

Dear Guys,

Here it is, Columbus' birthday;
I really don't know what to say;
The Ambush Bug story is such a card;

No one else makes me laugh so hard.

MYXZPTLK, he's such a pain;
Makes me want to go insane;
I wish Olsen would improve his taste;

All in all this comic wasn't such a waste.

Hello, is anybody out there? Yoo-hoo. Aw, come on, now, at least breathe!

DAVID MOLINA
208 Starr St.
Brooklyn, NY 11237

Hello in there; oh, yes, we're here
Your poem is good for at least a year.

If you don't mind, we think we'd better

Move along to the next letter!—BR

To All Concerned—

I WANT MY AMBUSH BUG MINI-SERIES!

AMBUSH BUG
AMBUSH BUG
AMBUSH BUG
AMBUSH BUG
AMBUSH BUG
AMBUSH BUG

Too much is never enough! Get with it!

STUART H. NAGER
16A Monsey Blvd.
Monsey, NY 10962

The first issue of Ambush Bug's four-issue mini-series goes on sale at the end of March. And we hope you didn't miss his return appearance in DC COMICS PRESENTS #81, still on sale if you're lucky!

That's all for now. Till next issue, remember to "Look up in the sky..."—Bob Rozakis

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"THE LEAGUE OF SUPERMAN WATCHERS!"

MICHAEL J. WELF
- WRITER -

ALEX SAVIK
- PENCILS -

DENNIS JENNEN
- INK -

BOB LAPPAN
- LETTERS -

GENE PIANELLO
- COLORS -

JULIUS SCHWARTZ
- EDITOR -

EVENING IN METROPOLIS AT A
VERY EXCLUSIVE GATHERING...



I'M SURE WE ALL APPRECIATE
MR. WENTZ TAKING REFRESHMENTS.
WE'LL NOW BE SERVED AND ALL
OF YOU WILL HAVE A CHANCE
TO SOCIALIZE WITH CLUB GOERS.

THIS IS YOUR SIXTH
VISIT TO OUR SOCIETY,
CLARK, AND YOU STILL
MANAGE TO PICK
THE HOUSE!

I'M
SURPRISED
YOU PEOPLE
DON'T GET
TIRED
OF ME!



NONSENSE YOU'RE ONE
OF THE PEOPLE WHO
ILLUSTRATED THE MAIN
REASON FOR THE LEAGUE
OUR HOBBY AFTER ALL
IS SUPERHEROISM.

...AND YOU'VE BEEN CLOSER
TO HIM THAN ANYONE ELSE.
YOUR INSIGHTS ARE
INTENSELY APPRECIATED.



ACTUALLY, MY MAIN REASON
FOR COMING HERE TONIGHT
WAS TO MEET PHILIP
STREICH.

AFTER THAT ARTICLE
IN THE LEAGUE
NEWSLETTER, I KNEW
HE WAS SOMEONE I
WANTED TO TALK TO.

OH



I WAS HOPING
YOU'D INTRODUCE
HIM TO ME.

THANKS
FOR A FAVORABLE
RECOMMENDATION.





THIS'LL END REAL QUICK, MENNY?

AND THE SUPERMAN DATA IS COMING THROUGH CLEARER THAN I UNDERSTOOD!

THE SOUND-ANALYZER IS PRODUCING THE CORRECT TONES WHICH I'LL BE ABLE TO TRANSLATE INTO FACTS CONCERNING SUPERMAN'S FLYING SPEED AND PHYSICAL DENSITY!

WITH THIS SOUND DEVICE PROGRAMMED TO SEEK OUT AND ANALYZE SUPERMAN, I'LL BE ABLE TO "SEE" HIM AFTER A FASHION THE LEAGUE WILL BE SOUND TO ADMIT ME!

IS IT REALLY POSSIBLE?

IF THAT CLIPPING ACTUALLY BUILT A SUPERMAN SOUND, THEN MAYBE THOSE STATIC BUZZS INDICATE SUPERMAN'S POSITION!

I COULD TAPE THESE BUZZS, WORK OUT A REALISTIC DISTANCE AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCENARIO!

THEN, WITH A LITTLE STUDY, PLUS A MAP OF METROPOLIS, I'D FIGURE OUT WHERE SUPERMAN LIVES!

WHEW!

THE NEXT DAY KIMBLE SUPERMAN INVOLVED IN A PRIVATE INVESTIGATION.

SO THAT'S PHILIP STRICK INVESTIGATING!



ALTHOUGH TOTALLY BLIND, HE'S MANAGED TO BUILD A METHOD BY WHICH HE COULD OBSERVE US AS I MOVE AROUND! FASCINATING!

EVEN MORE FASCINATING IS THE FACT THAT HALTED PERSONS IS HIS NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR!

WHEN ONE GETS OUT OF BED...

HMM... TRANSLATING BURSTS OF STATIC INTO GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION... THAT'S IT! SOMETHING IS GOING ON! MUST BE ABOUT... JET-ON!

SO DAVE HAS GONE. HE'S TAPPED INTO STRICK'S MACHINE AND IS USING IT TO FIND OUT ABOUT MY SECRET IDENTITY!

CONCENTRATING WITH SUPER-HEARING, THE MAN OF STEEL MANAGES TO PICK UP FLATIRE'S BID NEWS.



RIGHT... WANT AN APPOINTMENT WITH ME GREENS. I'VE GOT SOME HOT STUFF FOR SALE!

THE "HOT STUFF" PERSONS KNOWN IS A HYNDGATE "BOSS" SPECIALIZING IN BLACKMAIL AND THE SALE OF INDUSTRIAL SECRETS.

THIS JOONIE BOKE TOO WELL FOR A CERTAIN KRYPTONIAN!



I COULD GET STRICK TO STOP, BUT THAT WOULD RUIN HIS CHANCE TO JOIN THE LEAGUE!

AND IF I MOVE IN TO STOP PERKINS, THEN HE'D KNOW HE WAS ON TO THE TRUTH!

SO HOW DO I STOP PERKINS AND HELP GET STRICK INTO THE LEAGUE...

THE LEAGUE! THAT'S IT!

THE OFFICE OF THE LEAGUE'S PRESIDENT...

OF COURSE I'LL BE HAPPY TO HELP YOU, SUPERMAN!

AND THE REST OF THE LEAGUE--?

LEAVE IT TO ME!

UH-HUH...THIS IS A LEAGUE ALERT, CATHY! I NEED ALL OFFICERS TO REPORT IN WITHIN THE HOUR!

IT'S THE BIG TIME, GO GET CRACKING!

SEVERAL DAYS LATER, AN EXCITED WALTER PERKINS KEEPS THE APPOINTMENT OF HIS LIFE...

I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE SWEENEY'S FACE WHEN I TELL HIM I'VE GOT...

...SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE OF SUPERMAN'S SECRET IDENTITY!

B-BUT...
MR. DWAGNEY...

SHUT UP! I
SHOULD'VE KNOWN I
HADN'T HEARD THE LAST
OF IT WHEN YOU CAME
CRAWLING IN HERE!

SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE?
HAV THE WHOLE BLASTED
APART! IT'S BEEN NOTHING
BUT SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE!

COMPUTER PRINTOUTS...
CLOUD CHAMBER GRAPHS...
LITRAB PAPER TESTS...
HOROSCOPE!

SUPERMAN
IS EVERYTHING
FROM A HAIR
STYLIST IN
GOTHAM CITY
TO A THEATRICAL
AGENT NAMED
ROBERT
ZIMMERMAN!

JUST
WAIT'LL I
GET MY HANDS
ON THAT
STUCK
PINK!

NOW GET OUT OF HERE
WHILE YOU CAN STILL LEAVE
UNDER YOUR OWN POWER!

SHORTLY...

I DON'T
KNOW WHY
YOU GET ME UP,
BUT YOU'RE NOT
GETTING AWAY
WITH IT!

OH, REALLY?



M EANWHILE.

Just when I thought we had finished introducing you to everyone (although it's really been almost a year by now), I have someone else for you to meet. Rather than have her do an autobiography, I asked our resident reporter, Bob Greenberger, to bring us the lowdown on Barbara Randall:



BOB: So tell us, who is Barbara Randall and how did she get to DC Comics?

BARBARA: United Airlines. Actually, I was never really a comics fan, I sort of fell into reading them as a teenager. I jumped into being a writer from the cold. Dick ran a letter in **DETECTIVE COMICS**, talking about female superheroes, and invited suggestions on the subject. So, I wrote a long letter with a critique and suggestions—just to be helpful.

Dick called and offered me the Batgirl assignment and I wrote one two-parter that saw print and another two-parter that's been used to train new talent. What happened was, Dick gave up editing the Batman titles and Len took them over and he chose to use Green Arrow instead of Batgirl.

BOB: That was all in 1961. What happened to you since then?

BARBARA: I went back to finish college and received a BA from California State Polytechnic University-Pomona in Drama. I concentrated on costuming; spent the rest of my time writing plays or painting scenery. I then worked full-time for the Pomona Public Library as a Circulation Clerk and Reference Clerk.

BOB: Why didn't you continue trying to write?

BARBARA: I kept getting cold feet. I'm psychotically shy and I didn't think I was ready. DC kept more in touch with me than I did with them.

I finally got gutsy when my father and I got free airplane tickets to New York. I came last May and spent the week reading in the library and spoke with Dick about how useful I could be to the staff. When an opening presented itself in the late summer, Dick called and I was ready. I packed all my stuff and came out here, starting on October 29.

BOB: What was your first impression of comics' professionals?

BARBARA: Well, I went to my first comics convention in San Diego just after Dick called me the first time. He was going to be at the show and he wanted to talk to me, so I went, having never seen a comic fan or a professional. I left a message at Dick's hotel, saying I was 5'4", had brown hair, a red shirt, blue jeans, and a frightened expression.

I then watched a panel with Julie and Len and went up to Julie afterward, asking if he could describe Dick to me.

He heard I was expected, so he and Len each grabbed an elbow and we went looking for Dick. We were going upstairs and there was this man standing at the top, pointing a finger at me. Yep, it was Dick.

He took me to lunch with Don Newton and we talked comics all afternoon. Later, there was a party for Julie's birthday, which Jenette Kahn attended, and it was wonderful **BOB:** Now that you're here, what's your impression?

BARBARA: Ohboy! I'm sure as hell I'm having a wonderful time. The first thing I learned about New York is that the drivers are crazy! Then, when I got to the office, the first thing I learned to say was, "Marr, it's late." The second thing I learned was how to raid Len's candy jar.

BOB: Why don't you mention the books you're working on?

BARBARA: OK. I'm an Associate Editor, working with Marr on both **TEEN TITANS** titles and **VIGILANTE**. But that's just for starters. I figure I'll be running this company in five years, but I told Dick I'd keep him for another ten. I also hope to be doing some more writing in the future.



What Barb didn't mention is her always sunny disposition and the marvelous nonsense language she invented, which I call Barbapink. At best, it sounds like this: "(chirrup) draya chirraaka sumuka! (chirrup)." Better yet, she keeps her own candy jar on the desk, filled with gummy bears that taste great but do nothing for my figure. Having Barbara on board has made the workload a little easier on all of us and she will be contributing to more titles in time. And, Barb, thanks for letting me stay on those ten years.

Meanwhile, Thank You and Good Afternoon.

DICK



DC
ON SALE WEEK
CHECK
OF FEBRUARY 28
LIST

☐ **Tales of the Legion 323:** The Exile saga concludes as Brainiac 5 holds the secret!

- ☐ **Action Comics 567:** Two titanic tales, including the return of the Yellow Pearl!
- ☐ **Detective Comics 550:** Batman and Robin in all-out action! More adventure with Green Arrow!
- ☐ **World's Finest Comics 315:** Superman and Batman must stop a plot to plunge Gotham into darkness!
- ☐ **All-Star Squadron 45:** Somebody's stolen the original Liberty Bell for a deadly purpose!
- ☐ **Aston 31:** Aston undegoos

- intensive training in Chian's native land of Hoshan!
- ☐ **Spanner's Galaxy 6:** The mini-series concludes with a galaxy hanging on a shak's razor—a shak wielded by Baka!
- ☐ **V 4:** The revenge of Ham Tyler! The wrath of Diana!
- ☐ **Wonder Woman 325:** Wonder Woman and the Atomic Knight defend Earth from alien invaders!
- ☐ **Sun Devils 11:** A Sun Devil goes after the Starcrusher to destroy the Sauroid homeworld!